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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY

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30 September 1948

SUBJECT

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ACQUIRED

Argentine Communists' Financial Campaign

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SUPPLEMENT TO

REPORT NO.

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(The Communist Party of Argentina (CPA) officially opened its 1948 financial campaign on 21 June 1948, advertising a goal of half a million pesos to be collected by 1 September 1948. Orientacion, Communist newspaper, claimed on 15 August that receipts to that date had already exceeded the goal with a total of 521,609.75 pesos. On 1 September, the closing date of the campaign, the Communist daily, La Hora, announced that 852,046.93 pesos had been collected, while a later report in Orientacion, which included receipts from

1. The official claim of the amount of money raised in the recent CPA financial campaign ending on 1 Septamber is believed to be greatly exaggerated. It is estimated that the total collection actually was less than 350,000 pesos, a considerably smaller sum than that of last year. Current police restrictions on CPA meetings, picnics, and benefits are held responsible.

the interior, claimed a total of 857,720.63 pesos.)

- 2. One of the reasons why the CPA directors misrepresented the amount collected may have been to conceal the fact that many former sympathizers who contributed to previous campaigns have been converted to Peronismo and now refuse to contribute to the party.
- 3. Americo Ghialdi, Socialist leader and brother of CPA leader Rodolfo Ghioldi, stated in confidence that the CPA is now undergoing serious difficulties and that the financial campaign with the accompanying propaganda was intended to restore at least part of the CPA's lost prestige. Americo Chioldi added that, in spite of the current difficulties, the CPA will be in a pasition to improve its position greatly if and when President Peron finds it impossible to comply with the ever-increasing demands of labor.
- 4. Rodolfo Puiggros, Communist union leader, is said to have informed his brother that the published report of the CPA financial campaign is an martificial game" designed to disguise the fact that the CPA has been losing ground. Another Communist opined that the published results of the campaign tripled the actual amount collected in the 1948 campaign.

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- 5. Following is a list of the various sources of income of the CPA:
 - a. Artkino Pictures: This source has provided almost no income to the Party during the past eight months because of a government restriction on the release of Soviet films to local theaters.
 - b. Periodicals: All publications under this category are currently producing a deficit for the Party. La Hora alone has a monthly operational deficit of 12,000 pesos in addition to occasional fines which it is forced to pay for violation of local labor laws.
 - c. "Colectas": The most important of these is the annual financial campaign. Money formerly obtained from picnics, raffles, and dances is
 now negligible because of government restrictions against such Communist
 activities. The total of dues collected is not sufficient to pay the
 normal operating expenses of the Party, which include monthly salaries
 of \$000 pesos for the leaders, operation of party automobiles, and 250
 pesos monthly for each chauffeur assigned to an automobile.
 - d. Publishing Houses: Editorial Anteo prints pamphlets and Communist magazines and acts as a distributor for foreign Communist magazines. Editorial Problemas prints both local and foreign Communist books but its production is extremely limited. Both constantly complaining of their financial situation. The high cost of paper and labor makes the books too expensive to be purchased by the rank and file of the CPA.
 - e. "Sostenedores": This group is composed of Party sympathizers who make regular monthly contributions (sometimes as high as 150 pesos or more) either out of sympathy or for reasons of professional or political expediency.
 - f. Foreign Aid: Very little financial aid is received from the exterior. However, local Slav Communism does receive occasional aid, usually in the form of loans, from the Polish Bank.

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